

The Benefits of Studying History: How to Uncover the Historical Truth?

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Introduction for the teacher

The lesson script is intended for students aged between 14 and 18. The subject matter discussed allows for its use in interdisciplinary classes in history, culture, media education and social sciences.

The material has been divided into three parts: the lesson scenario, a set of source materials and a worksheet of exercises to be done during the class, in a group or individually.

Instructions

The script contains five pieces of source material and a worksheet with exercises to be implemented during two lessons (45 mins each). The lesson structure can be modified by the teacher to achieve specific objectives. The source materials and worksheet can also be adapted and used only in part according to the class requirements. The lesson will benefit from using the Internet (computer, multimedia projector and an interactive white board), including devices connected to the Internet (smartphones, tablets, etc).

Operational goals

The student is able to:

- understand the importance of verifying historical information,
- acquire knowledge about historical methods,
- explain the meaning of the terms 'show trial' and 'fact-check',
- use historical methods to verify the information presented as truths on the Internet and social media,

- develop an independent argument regarding the role of history in human society and contribute to the collective debate.

Teaching methods

- teacher-led discussion,
- group work,
- brainstorming,
- analysis of source material, texts and illustrations,
- metaplan,¹
- independent work with a set of exercises.

Teaching aids

- sets of exercises and source material available on the ['Hi-Story Lessons'](#) platform,
- boards/flipcharts, felt pens/chalk,
- large paper sheets/Bristol board sheets, post-its,
- a computer with internet access and a multimedia projector and an interactive white board.

Before the lesson

Ask the students to read the essays titled ['How historians verify information'](#).

¹ One of the activation methods used during class; it involves poster making by the discussion/debate participants. The poster represents a graphic summary of the debate (based on Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metaplan> [accessed 14 December 2020]).